

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CANBER 06849 280544Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----123523 280544Z /20
R 280520Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4144

S E C R E T CANBERRA 6849

EXDIS, FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM AMBASSADOR ALSTON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MARR, PINT, AS
SUBJECT: DEFENCE MINISTER KILLEN'S UNCERTAINTY OVER SENSITIVE ASPECTS
OF JOINT US-AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE COOPERATION

REF: (A) CANBERRA 6592; (B) STATE 209835

1. FOLLOWING LETTER DATED AUGUST 25 RECEIVED FROM GEOFF YEEND,
SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET:

QUOTE: DEAR PHILIP,
YOU SPOKE TO ME AND LATER WROTE TO ME ABOUT THE
DEFENCE FACILITIES MATTER.

SINCE WE SPOKE THE MATTER HAS MOVED ON A LITTLE.
THERE HAVE IN FACT BEEN SUGGESTIONS BY YOUR DEFENSE AND
STATE DEPARTMENTS, THROUGH THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN
WASHINGTON, THAT A TEAM BE SENT TO CANBERRA FOR DISCUSSIONS.
THE MATTER IS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION AMONGST DEPARTMENTS
AND MINISTERS HERE. THE PRIME MINISTER IS KEEPING IN
TOUCH WITH THE SITUATION.
HOWEVER YOU WILL APPRECIATE THAT THE HANDLING OF THE
MATTER TAKES ON A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT ASPECT THAN
THAT DISCUSSED BETWEEN MR. SQUIRES AND ME, AND
BETWEEN YOU AND ME.

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PAGE 02 CANBER 06849 280544Z

I SHALL SEE THAT YOU ARE KEPT IN TOUCH WITH
ANY DEVELOPMENTS. END QUOTE.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE ABOUT STATUS OF PROPOSAL
TO SEND TEAM TO CANBERRA FOR DISCUSSIONS MENTIONED IN YEEND'S
LETTER.
ALSTON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER06849
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780350-0988
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780819/aaaaaphc.tel
Line Count: 62
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fb21f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 CANBERRA 6592, 78 STATE 209835
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1605777
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEFENCE MINISTER KILLEN'S UNCERTAINTY OVER SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF JOINT US-AUSTRALIAN DEFENSE COOPERATION
TAGS: MARR, PINT, AS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fb21f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014